

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04042 171534Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 171515Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4893

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 219

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4042

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS, US, UN

SUBJECT: UNDOF RENEWAL

1. UK AMBASSADOR ROBERTS HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED ATTEMPT
ARRANGE VISIT TO SYRIA FOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ENNALS. PROPOSED DATES ARE NOVEMBER 12-16. THIS
WOULD BE FIRST VISIT BY BRITISH CABINET LEVEL OFFICIAL
TO SYRIA SINCE 1966. DEPUTY FONMIN RAFI'I HAS INFORMED
ROBERTS THAT ENNALS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME IN SYRIA BUT
THAT HE, RAFI'I, COULD NOT GUARANTEE APPROPRIATE APPOINT-
MENTS FOR HIM ON DATES PROPOSED. HE ADVISED THAT FONMIN
KHADDAM MIGHT BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY IN MID-NOVEMBER AND
"SENIOR SYRIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH QUESTION
OF UNDOF RENEWAL."

2. COMMENT:

BOTH PRESIDENT ASAD AND KHADDAM HAVE PUBLICLY AFFIRMED
THAT SARG HAS NOT YET TAKEN DECISION ON UNDOF RENEWAL.
RAFI'I'S COMMENT ON ENNALS' VISIT, SUGGESTS THAT PERIOD
OF PROLONGED UNCERTAINTY OVER UNDOF RENEWAL MAY LIE AHEAD.

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SYRIAN LEADERSHIP MAY WELL HOPE TO EXPLOIT WORLD INTEREST

IN RENEWAL ISSUE AS WEAPON IN ITS PRESENT CAMPAIGN OF EMBARRASSING
EGYPT AND PERHAPS ALSO AS PRESSURE TACTIC ON US AND ISRAEL TO
COME FORWARD QUICKLY WITH ADVANTAGEOUS TERMS TO BE OFFERED SYRIA
IN ANY FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS AFFECTING GOLAN. SHOULD SYRIA,
AGAINST OUR PRESENT EXPECTATIONS, DECIDE AGAINST
RENEWAL OF UNDOF, THIS WOULD BE A QUANTUM JUMP IN REGIME'S
RISK TAKING. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT PER SE SIGNIFY A
SYRIAN DECISION TO GIVE UP ON SEARCH FOR POLITICAL
SOLUTION.
MURPHY

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NNN

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